

VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bedford, Virginia
October 19, 2009

Virginia Roanoke River Advisory Committee: John Lindsey, Mark Wagner, Bob Jean, Billy Martin, Russ Johnson, Read Charlton, Senator Frank Ruff, , Delegate Thomas Wright, Delegate Charles Poindexter, Haywood Hamlet, John Feild, Mike McEvoy, Evelyn Janney

Staff present:

Scott Kudlas, VA DEQ; Tammy Stephenson, VA DEQ
Mr. McEvoy called the meeting to order.

Call to Order

Chairman McEvoy called the meeting to order. Bedford County Administrator Kathleen Guzi welcomed to group.

Minutes

Upon a motion by Senator Ruff, seconded by Mr. Hamlett, minutes of the August 21, 2009 meeting were approved. Mrs. Janney abstained.

Presentations

Jan Briedé, Ph.D., Stormwater Outreach Manager for the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, gave a presentation on a brief overview of DCR's perspective on the proposed VSMP regulations. The presentation is an official part of these minutes.

Russ Johns gave an update on the Smith Mountain Lake FERC re-licensing. He said they are getting to the end of the re-licensing period. By the end of 2010, there will be a new license issued. There is a draft Environmental Impact Statement which allows for monitoring beyond the license. FERC has a series of management plans which will continue after the license is issued. There are various committees with stakeholder members that will continue to monitor various areas, such as the sedimentation monitoring committee. There is a Navigation Management Plan. Leesville never had navigation aids, but will through this process. There is a Water Quality Monitoring Plan which is maintained by DEQ and others. Through the Habitat Management Plan, \$50,000 has been set aside for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the Roanoke Logperch.

Through the Aquatic Vegetation Plan, AEP will be responsible for keeping public access points open and available, taking care of vegetation, sediment, etc. Boat ramps may need to be modified so there is more access more periods of time. Also, they will add public rest areas and picnic areas. There will be two expansion parking lots: Hardy Ford will be expanded; Leesville will be new. There will probably be no new ramps except Leesville, but improvement will be made to existing ramps.

When the final Environmental Impact Statement is available, FERC will write the license. The Committees will continue to meet after the license is issued. There are still some unanswered issues, such as the decision-making process of committees, conveying information to AEP, FERC's involvement with this, etc.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that a coalition was formed through this process: the Tri-County Re-Licensing Committee (TCLC) representing The Counties of Bedford, Roanoke, Franklin, and Campbell. There are two elected members from each governing body and the county administrators from each county. The group plans to continue to stay together even after the license is issued.

Sub-Committees

Mr. McEvoy explained the committee chart and the desire to get the sub-committees active. The VRRBAC sub-committees will meet on basin topics and will feed information to the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission sister Committees. Mr. McEvoy asked that all members of VRRBAC consider being on at least one sub-committee. He will look at chairmen of each committee and make appointments as necessary. He hopes that North Carolina will establish the same sub-committees once their Advisory Committee is established.

Mr. Feild explained that the sub-committee chairs will be co-chairs of the Bi-State Commission Committees, along with the North Carolina counterparts. He stressed that this is very important, and the chairs should attend the Bi-State Commission meetings. He added that the North Carolina Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee has yet to meet, but he has been working with some of the North Carolina representatives to make this happen.

With regard to the Water Allocation Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. McEvoy explained the purpose is to recommend protocol for Kerr Reservoir. Full participation from both states is required for this to work.

Mr. Feild added that administrative support in North Carolina needs to come up to the level of Virginia. It is currently with the Council of Governments, but should be with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Next Meeting Date

In the past, the VRRBAC has met in January at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, working around the legislators' schedules. The session begins the second week of January 2010. Ms. Stephenson will poll members for a meeting date.

Other Business

Mr. Feild reported that a Coalition has been formed in the basin in response to the requests for Interbasin Transfers. The coalition began in the lower basin, but has plans to move into the upper basin.

Mr. Feild said the Roanoke River Basin Association met in Roanoke Rapids and touched on the uranium mining issue. The RRBA decided to wait on the study results. He said that Virginia Beach offered to co-fund the study, but the study topics of interest to Virginia Beach were not going to be studied, so they backed out. Mr. Feild proposed that a third party establish the study topics, then maybe Virginia Beach would agree to participate. The RRBA passed a resolution to that affect, which should be communicated soon.

With regard to Kerr Reservoir, Mr. Feild said a lease has been signed for development of a marina at Rudd's Creek. This will be a phased project and will make use of the former Lynchburg YMCA facility.

Mrs. Janney said a card should be sent to Bob Conner to let him know the Committee members' thoughts are with him as he battles his health issues.

Mr. Hamlet mentioned that J. T. Davis's daughter has cancer and members should remember this family in their prayers.

Mr. Lindsey said there is a Sports Field article on water conservation. He will bring it to the next meeting and share with everyone. The article speaks of the conflict of fish and wildlife and public water use.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.